

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07

/064 W

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R 020800Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2361

BANGKOK FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, SN, TH

SUBJECT: M-16 RIFLES FOR THAILAND

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 2061; (B) BANGKOK 9552

1. SUMMARY: GOS HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT RTG HAS NOW REQUESTED THAT MINDEF SUPPLY RTG WITH TOTAL OF 60,000 M-16 RIFLES, AND THAT 30,000 ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. GOS HAS ADVISED EMBASSY IT HAS PAID COLT BACK ROYALTIES AND IS URGING U.S. TO PERSUADE COLT TO SUBMIT MC LICENSE REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT ASAP. ALTHOUGH COLT MAY WISH TO SELL RIFLES DIRECTLY TO RTG, BELIEVE IN INTEREST OF ASEAN SOLIDARITY IN SECURITY FIELD WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE COLT TO GO ALONG WITH SINGAPORE INTEREST IN SUPPLYING 30,000 M-16S IMMEDIATELY FROM OWN STOCKS. END SUMMARY

2. DAO HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED MAY 28 FROM DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS (LIM) OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENT BE INFORMED THAT THAI GENERAL KRANGSAK HAS ADVISED GOS THAT THAILAND NOW REQUIRES 60,000 INSTEAD OF 50,000 M-16 RIFLES TO BE SUPPLIED BY GOS.
CONFIDENTIAL

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3. GOS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN ADVISED BY RTG THAT THERE IS URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF 30,000 M-16'S. AT PRIME MINISTER LEE'S DINNER FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, GOH REFERRED TO THIS REQUIREMENT AND PUT USG ON NOTICE THAT GOS

WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLY 30,000 M-16'S IMMEDIATELY FROM MINDEF STOCKS. SUBSEQUENTLY, SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIAL ASSURED DAO THAT GOS WOULD NOT DELIVER THESE RIFLES UNTIL USG CONCURRED.

4. DAO WAS ALSO INFORMED BY SAME OFFICIAL THAT GOS HAS TAKEN ACTION TO PAY COLT INDUSTRIES US\$ 638,170 DUE FOR BACK ROYALTIES. EMBASSY WAS GIVEN COPY OF LETTER DATED MAY 23 FROM DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS (LIM) TO PRESIDENT OF COLT INDUSTRIES, D. EASTON, REFERRING TO TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER OF ABOVE SUM. LETTER EXPLAINS DELAY IN PAYMENT WAS CAUSED BY LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS IN CHARTERED INDUSTRIES WHICH NOW RESOLVED, AND ASKS COLT INDUSTRIES TO APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO USG FOR APPROVAL TO SUPPLY 60,000 RIFLES TO THAILAND.

5. S.R. NATHAN, CHIEF OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE DIVISION IN MINDEF, SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED BOTH DCM AND STATION CHIEF THAT GOS WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY SITUATION IN THAILAND AND FELT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT RTG RECEIVE RIFLES. HE HOPED USG WOULD PRESSURE COLT TO SUBMIT ASAP REQUEST FOR MC LICENSE. NATHAN AND OTHER GOS OFFICIALS HAVE ALL BEEN TOLD THAT USG CAN NOT ACT UNTIL COLT SUBMITS A REQUEST, AND THAT USG CAN NOT INTERFERE IN ACTIONS OF A PRIVATE COMPANY.

6. COMMENT: NOW THAT COLT HAS BEEN PAID ROYALTIES OWED BY GOS, WE HOPE IT WILL SUBMIT REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT TO LICENSE SALE OF 60,000 M-16'S BY GOS TO THAILAND. WE RECOGNIZE THAT COLT MAY PREFER TO SELL RIFLES DIRECTLY TO RTG, BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ENCOURAGE ONE ASEAN COUNTRY TO PROVIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ANOTHER. IF RTG HAS URGENT NEED FOR 30,000 RIFLES WHICH COULD BE FURNISHED IMMEDIATELY FROM GOS STOCKS, WE WOULD HOPE COLT COULDBE PERSUADED TO AGREE THAT THRESE RIFLES BE PROVIDED FROM SINGAPORE STOCKS, RESERVING RIGHT TO SELL REMAINDER DIRECTLY TO RTG. SUBJECT TO EMBASSY BANGKOK'S CONCURRENCE, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE IT MAY HAVE WITH COLT TO URGE THAT AT A MINIMUM IT SUBMIT TO DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE REQUEST FOR MC LICENSE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SALE OF 30,000 RIFLES FROM SINGAPORE TO THAILAND. IF REQUEST SUBMITTED FOR EITHER THIS AMOUNT OR FULL 60,000 REQUESTED, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE. BELIEVE THIS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ASEAN SOLIDARITY IN SECURITY FIELD AT A TIME WHEN THE RTG COULD USE SOME REASSURANCE.
CRONK

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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